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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02685 130749Z
ACTION RP-10

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-01 SS-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 ID-15 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SS0-00
HA-08 PM-09 INRE-00 SP-02 SR-06 /085 W
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O 130746Z FEB 83
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1340
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KARUL
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 02685

DEPT FOR RP AND AID/FFP

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SREF, E.AID, WFP
SUBJECT: WFP STUDYING ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD AID PROGRAM
IN IRAN.

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ³FOLD REF-
COUNTS AND VISITING RP REFUGEE OFFICER BAZALA FEBRUARY
10 THAT GOVERNMENT OF IRAN HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD AID TO AFGHAN
REFUGEES IN IRAN. AND/

POSALS IN ROME AND REVIEW SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN IRAN.

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3. WFP/ISLAMABAD CITED THE FIGURES 50,000-
70,000 AS THE "HARD CORE" OF "UNASSIMILABLE" AFGHAN
REFUGEES IN IRAN THAT WOULD BE THE INITIAL BENEFICI-
ARIES OF ANY WFP PROGRAM THERE. THEY ARE THOUGHT TO BE
IN THE ZAHEDAN-ZABOL AREA AND IN THE VICINITY OF BANDAR
ABBAS. COMMENT. APPARENTLY WFP STUDIED THE POSSIBILITY

PAGE NO. 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR.
REVIEWED BY *[Signature]* DATE *2/11/83*
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OF SETTING UP A PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN IN 1981. BUT IT FELL APART WHEN WFP WAS UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES THERE. WE HAVE SEEN FIGURES RANGING FROM 30,000 (THE "IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM" CITED BY A PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT WHO WAS RECENTLY IN IRAN) TO THREE MILLION (A FIGURE ALLEGEDLY RECENTLY USED BY BBC) FOR THE NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. OUR CURRENT "EDUCATED GUESS" IS THERE ARE BETWEEN 600,000 AND 700,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. END COMMENT.

4. BAZALA ASKED _____ WHAT WOULD BE THE NATIONALITY OF WFP PERSONNEL THAT MIGHT BE ON THE MISSION TO IRAN (CURRENT U.S. POLICY PRECLUDES U.S. NATIONALS TRAVELING TO IRAN AT THIS TIME).

B1 a9
B1 a5/a

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ROME CAN DEVELOP ON THIS MISSION.

6. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. SPIERS

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